

d' Oreille, Aug. 1, 1892 (*Sandberg, MacDougal & Heller*, no. 817) : NEVADA, Reno (received from *Thomas Meehan*) : COLORADO, Piedra, July 12, 1899 (*C. F. Baker*, no. 572) : NEW MEXICO, without locality, 1847 (*Fendler*, no. 603) ; Santa Fé Cañon, alt. 2460 m., July 2, 1897 (*A. A. & E. G. Heller*, no. 3798) ; White Mountains, alt. 2160 m., Aug. 1, 1897 (*E. O. Wooton*, no. 267) ; Chama, Sept. 5, 1899 (*C. F. Baker*, no. 570) : ARIZONA, Willow Spring, alt. 2200 m., July, 1874 (*J. T. Rothrock*, no. 242), July 5, 6, 1890 (*Edw. Palmer*, no. 626) ; Fort Apache, June 21-30, 1890 (*Edw. Palmer*, no. 579) ; vicinity of Flagstaff, alt. 2160 m., July 8, 1898 (*D. T. MacDougal*, no. 258). — The original specimen from Drummond was probably from Norway House on the Saskatchewan and is approached by Bourgeau's plant from that region which, however, has the throat of the calyx more densely bearded than in the Rocky Mountain plants or as shown in the original plate of the Drummond plant.

GRAY HERBARIUM.

THE CORRECT DISPOSITION OF *SISYMBRIUM NIAGARENSE*. — In his monograph of the genus *Sisymbrium* Eugène Fournier described in 1865¹ a new species, *S. niagarense*, collected at Niagara and said to be nearly related to the common hedge-mustard, *S. officinale*. Indeed, Fournier ventured the suggestion that it might be the *S. officinale* of Pursh and of Elliott. Unable from the description to place the plant more accurately and equally unable to identify it with any particular form of *Sisymbrium* from central North America, Dr. Gray² early suggested that it probably was only a form of *S. officinale*. This view (properly guarded by a mark of interrogation) was repeated in the Synoptical Flora and by Dr. Watson in his Bibliographical Index, while in the Index Kewensis the identity of *Sisymbrium niagarense* and *S. officinale* is recorded without any qualification.

On visiting the Jardin des Plantes in Paris, last July, the writer was permitted, through the kindness of Prof. Bureau and the staff of the herbarium, to examine Fournier's type. This, however, proved to be *Brassica nigra*, Koch, the common black mustard. To make the identity doubly certain, the specimen was subsequently reexamined by the writer in company with M. Danguy of the Botanical

¹ Recherches anatomiques et taxonomiques sur la famille des Crucifères et sur le genre *Sisymbrium* en particulier; Paris, 4to., 1865.

² Am. Journ. Sci. ser. 2, xlii. 278.

Museum at Paris. Although the specimen lacks the lower leaves there can be no doubt whatever that it is *Brassica nigra* and that it bears the original label of Fournier. Furthermore the specimen corresponds so closely to the description of *S. niagarensis* that there can be no reason to suspect a confusion of specimens and labels. The name *S. niagarensis*, Fourn., may, therefore, be transferred from the synonymy of *S. officinale*, L., to that of *Brassica nigra*, Koch, and one more question mark, of some years' standing, may thus be eliminated from American systematic botany. — B. L. ROBINSON.

THE VEGETATION OF PLYMOUTH THREE HUNDRED YEARS AGO. — In the Rev. Alexander Young's "Chronicles of the Pilgrim Fathers from 1602-1625" there is a short account of the natural productions of the Plymouth shore. The vegetation is thus described:

"The land for the crust of the earth is a spit's depth, excellent black mould, and fat in some places; and vines everywhere, cherry-trees, plum-trees, and many others which we know not. Many kinds of herbs we found here in the winter, as strawberry leaves innumerable, sorrel, yarrow, carval, brooklime, liverwort, water-cresses, great store of leek and onions, and an excellent kind of flax or hemp."

Only three of the plants mentioned seem to require comment. What plant is intended by "carval" I do not know. Possibly the word is a variant of "carvies," said to be a vernacular name for *Carum Carui*, L. If this be the case the observer must have mistaken some indigenous Umbellifer for the European species, as he might easily do. It seems less probable that he could have failed to recognize two such familiar herbs as sorrel and water-cress, or have intended by those names any other plants than *Rumex Acetosella*, L., and *Nasturtium officinale*, R. Br.

Yet botanists agree in considering both as introduced species in North America. This testimony throws the date of the introduction very far back. When and by what means had they migrated, that the Pilgrims should find them already in possession of the virgin soil?

It appears probable that some curious and useful information concerning the primeval vegetation of the Atlantic coast might be gleaned from the accounts of contemporary writers. But this research, perhaps, may already have been made.—S. B. PARISH, San Bernardino, California.